148. Enhancement of the export duty on copra and the grant of facilities for the cheap supply of white cedar.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L, (T. I. C., Alleppey) suggested that the export duty on copra might be increased in view of the necessity for conserving as much of that article as possible within the State by way of protection to the budding mill industry of Travancore. He also said that it was desirable that white cedar might be sold to these mill owners at a favourable rate, in consideration of the large demand that they had for that commodity. White cedar was the only wood with which casks could be made for storing oil without fear of leaking and he wished to point out that as these casks were never returned to the firms on being transhipped to Europe, the owners of mills would lose heavily if the concession now prayed for were not granted.

Reply.—As regards white cedar, it does not seem desirable to reduce its price as outsiders are prepared to buy it at its present value *plus* export duty. The question of enhancing the export duty on copra has been already referred to the Excise Commissioner and his proposals are awaited. The suggestion made by the member will also be borne in mind.

149. Reduction of export duty on coffee.

Mr. E. E. Williams (Kannan Devan Planters' Association) brought up this subject.

Reply.– The duty has been already reduced from 5 to 4 per cent.

150. Adoption of the monopoly system for the realization of Abkari revenue.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (Nominated) observed that the monopoly system which contemplated an intermediary between the Government and the ryots had several advantages over the excise system which superseded it about four years ago. There was now no doubt a slight apparent increase in the revenue, but this was really due to increase in the population of the State and not to any excellence in the new system. His prayer was that the relative advantages of both the systems might be considered by Government and that one adopted which might be alike convenient and profitable. In British India, a commission for this purpose had been recently appointed and they had submitted their report. He said that it would

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be desirable to wait and see what reforms were introduced there and to adopt such of them as might be suited to local conditions and requirements.

Reply.—The excise system which was tentatively introduced in the Trivandrum Division in 1073 was extended to the Southern Division in 1076 and to the Quilon Division from the beginning of the current Malabar year. This system has been on the whole found to be an improvement upon the old monopoly or farming system. It has been at all events a success so far. It is doubtful whether Government can go back to the old system in these Divisions. The action taken on the report of the Excise Commission may be awaited, as suggested by Mr. Swamy Iyengar, and such reforms afterwards introduced as might seem necessary.

151. Mitigation of coin difficulty.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (*Ettumanur*) observed that currency difficulties arose on account of the remissness of the mint and treasury officers of the State. He prayed that some measures might be introduced for putting a stop to, or at least alleviating, all future difficulties in this direction.

Reply.—Orders have been recently issued in the matter. The difficulty complained of will be dealt with when it arises. Fortunately, there is no difficulty of the kind now.

152. Proper distribution of budget allotments among the various divisions and taluks.

Mr. K. Karunakaran Pillai (*Parur*) represented that though various public works had to be urgently executed in the Kottayam Division and the necessity for allotting funds for the same had been brought to the notice of Government at the last session of the Assembly, nothing had been done hitherto in that direction. He prayed for an equitable distribution of the budget allotment of the State among the different divisions and taluks according to their needs and circumstances.

Reply.—This has been already replied to. (*Vide* subject No. 127).

153. Appointment of a Commission composed of official and non-official members for economising State expenditure.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) said that

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